

uphold the honour of their profession, who are possessed of "endurance, foresight, strength, and skill," who are ready to turn their hands to anything that needs to be done, to make light of difficulties and hardships, to overcome them, and last, but not least, who will nurse their patients with devotion. These being the necessary qualifications, we warmly congratulate the nurses, now on their way to India, on the honour done to them by their selection. We feel sure that they will respond to the demands made upon them, and that their less fortunate professional colleagues will have every reason to be proud of those to whom the work has been entrusted.

The long deferred announcement that Lord Sandhurst, Governor of Bombay, has at last put his foot down in connection with the municipal mismanagement of the plague, has given much satisfaction to those who have for months past been watching the evolution of events. He has issued a notification appointing a Special Committee of four members—General Gatacre, Mr. Snow (Commissioner), Surgeon-Major Dimmock, and Mr. James (Municipal Engineer), to carry out, under the orders of Government, stringent measures to suppress and prevent the spread of the plague in Bombay.

These measures, the Governor states, should comprise organisation—firstly, for the discovery of all cases; secondly, for the treatment of all cases in the hospitals; and, thirdly, for the gradual segregation, so far as possible, of those persons who have been living in the same room with the plague-stricken, or have been in close attendance upon them.

The Committee are given the fullest powers to enforce the measures.

Lord Sandhurst, in a letter to the Municipal President, says that the appointment of the Committee casts no slur upon local bodies, nor is it a blow at local self-government. It is simply an Imperial necessity.

The *Times of India* of the 13th February comments most strongly on the unnecessary suffering entailed on the plague-stricken, owing to the lack of provision and comfort in the new Arthur Road Hospital:—

"We have all of us waxed indignant over the ingratitude and ignorance of the mob who, some weeks ago, raised their riotous protest against a hospital in which, they pretended, the doctors kill people. The doctors do not kill people there, though the one medical man who is put in charge of work that would keep three well employed, will kill himself unless effective assistance is speedily given him. But there is a sense in which we must now admit that we were all of us wrong, and that the stone-throwing mob were right. People *are* being killed in the hospital; partly, it is almost certain, through the insanitary condition

of the place, and partly through the disgraceful shortcomings in its manning and equipment—the number of victims being precisely the number of cases which might reasonably be expected to be saved by skilled treatment, good nursing, and sanitary surroundings, but which are not saved because the treatment is left to a cruelly-overworked medical man labouring almost single-handed, because there is no nursing worthy of the name, and because the hospital is now in a condition of insanitation that invites serious attention to the question whether it ought much longer to be used for the purpose for which it was built. At all events, it is time for this to be recognised—that, if the Municipality cannot provide for the reasonably efficient management of the hospital, the Government themselves must take it over."

Columns of correspondence in the same issue of the *Times of India* corroborate the editorial opinion. One gentleman writes:—

"Circumstances again took me to our plague hospital this morning, when I found that matters were going from bad to worse. The plague seemed to be increasing. Eighteen new patients were admitted since the morning, and I saw seven brought there in labour carts, all of them very ill, and some in a dying state. They were placed on the floor until beds could be got ready, and a sadder spectacle I never saw—a long row of human beings, helpless, speechless, motionless, most of them fast passing into eternity. The anxious question naturally arose—When will this great sacrifice of human life cease?"

"Nothing more had been done towards securing the patients a better attendance; if they previously suffered from a lack of attendance that suffering is now increased by a large increase in the number of patients, leaving it impossible to say that the sufferers are receiving the necessary care and attention which their misfortune demands. The neglect is cruel to say the least of it, and I urge once more that the claims of humanity be not disregarded for a single day. This state of neglect has been going on in this city during the whole period of the existence of the plague, but the neglect was then hidden in the houses, the friends of the sufferers approving of the plans of hiding the cases and of denying the sufferer vital air and rational medical treatment. A large number of plague cases are now no longer hidden, the sufferers are discovered, and are sent to the plague hospital, ostensibly to be properly treated and cared for, and ostensibly to prevent the spread of plague in the city. The intention is doubtless good, but the way in which it is carried out is positively disgraceful. Under the pretence of caring for the afflicted, they are compulsorily sent into an asylum almost completely unprovided for their care and treatment. As I viewed the hospital and its sick and dying inmates this morning I felt ashamed of my city, a thousand times ashamed of it, it seemed so out of keeping with generous-hearted Bombay."

Mr. K. M. Shroff describes the hospital thus:—

"Imagine three large sheds, in an entirely open, treeless compound, each 117 feet long by 40 feet wide, open on all sides, with a roof supported on two rows of

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